

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 229166

12

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STATE 229166

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SCUL, IN, US

SUBJ: NORTON SIMON NATARAJA

1. DURING PAST WEEK OR SO, WE AND INDIANS HAVE BEEN IN TOUCH WITH NEW YORK METROPOLITAN MUSEUM REGARDING TENTATIVE PLANS TO EXHIBIT STOLEN NATARAJA STATUE, NOW IN POSSESSION OF NORTON SIMON. AS RESULT OUR APPROACHES, MET DIRECTOR HOVING INFORMED INDIAN DCM GONSALVES NOVEMBER 19 THAT MUSEUM WOULD ACCEDE TO INDIAN REQUEST NOT RPT NOT TO INCLUDE NATARAJA IN PLANNED SOUTH ASIA EXHIBIT. HOVING CONFIRMED THIS TO DEPARTMENT NOV. 20.
2. GONSALVES SAID INDIANS WERE VERY APPRECIATIVE OF OUR ASSISTANCE WITH METROPOLITAN MUSEUM. HE ALSO INDICATED THAT EMBASSY IS HOPING TO DISCUSS WITH DEPARTMENT, POSSIBLY NEXT WEEK, WAYS US AND INDIA MIGHT WORK TOGETHER IN DEALING WITH OVERALL PROBLEM OF TRAFFIC IN "STOLEN" ART OBJECTS BETWEEN INDIA AND U.S. KISSINGER

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